CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by
THE NORTHERN ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Sigtuna, Sweden

Director: Dr. HARRY JOHANSSON, Sigtuna, Sweden
Editor: Rev. JOHS. LANGHOFF, Øster Egesborg per Mern, Denmark

No. 46 March 19th, 1959.

Joint Northern Training School for YMCA and YWCA Secretaries.

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The idea now is to turn it into a diocesan centre for the Diocese of Copenhagen where big church meetings might take place, and at the same time it should accommodate the "Pastoralseminarium" (Practical Theological Training School) which provides the practical training of divinity graduates. Until now the "Pastoralseminarium" has taken place at the University, but the natural connection with a church and a parish has been keenly missed. At the same time a committee, set up by the "Pastoralseminarium" is investigating the possibility of establishing a kind of folk high school for clergymen at the "Helligaandshuset" where they might get post graduate training, especially in matters connected with pastoral theology.

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The "Young Homes" Movement Erects Folk High School.

The "Young Homes" movement which for a number of years has collected large numbers of young married couples for religious meetings, study circles, and such like, has now begun the erection of a special "Young Homes" folk high school which is to be situated in Skaade, outside Aarhus. The school will have accommodation for 80 students besides living quarters for the requisite teaching staff, a library, a gymnasium drawing room, and a chapel hall. The curriculum of the folk high school will include, among other things, such subjects as "Man in Modern Society", "Politics and Philosophy", "The Foundation of Democracy", "The Sources of Personal Religious Life", "Problems of Education", as well as Bible knowledge and literature.

Complaints Against Conditions on Christian Hospital for Epileptics.

A number of former patients at the only hospital for epileptics in Denmark, the colony of "Filadelfia" have lodged a complaint against conditions at the hospital with the Minister of Social Affairs. The hospital which is run privately on Christian lines but is subsidized by the State, is accused of bringing a religious pressure to bear upon the patients and of undue hard punishments of offenders against patient regulations.

The Medical Superintendent of the hospital has accounted publicly for the necessity of certain disciplinarian measures and also stated that if any kind of religious pressure has taken place it must have happened in contradiction to staff regulations. The board of directors of the "Filadelfia" colony has requested the Ministry of Social Affairs to cause an impartial investigation of the conditions and, consequently, the Minister has set up a committee of three for this purpose.

The former patients refer to the fact that the State contributes an annual grant of 12 million Danish crowns and, with this in mind, they demand that Government increases its supervision of the hospital, and various contributors to the discussion maintain that, since the State subsidizes the hospital, "the treatment of disease should not be mixed up with religion". In commenting on this the "Kristeligt Dagblad" points out that if all the enterprises receiving State subsidies were to be neutral a completely new practice would be inaugurated which might have the most serious consequences for the relations between the State and a number of Christian movements in the country. Thus the privately run teachers' training colleges, many Christian social institutions and the folk high school would come into focus. But the paper feels convinced that such a course of action will not be adopted.

First Married Woman to Take Holy Orders.

The Lutheran National Church in Denmark may now count the first married woman among its clergymen as Mrs. Ulla Birthe Heje, née Reinstru was ordained by Bishop Dons Christensen in the Cathedral of Ribe on Marc 4th. Mrs. Heje is to be assistant chaplain in Glostrup in the Diocese of Copenhagen, but the Bishop of Copenhagen, H. Fuglsang-Damgaard, does not want to ordain women. He is willing, however, to take over the episcopal supervision of the new woman pastor.

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Death in Jerusalem of Professor Flemming Hvidberg.

Former Minister of Education, Professor Flemming Hvidberg, has died in Jerusalem during a stay for study purposes at the age of 61. Flemming Hvidberg who was a Professor of Old Testament, had just obtained a long leave in order to study in Palestine where he wanted to examine the scrolls found in the Qumran caves. He was an active Conservative politician, a Member of Parliament, and in charge of a great number of honorary offices. From 1950-1953 he was Minister of Education.

Two Lutheran Convents in Denmark.

Although known by very few a Lutheran convent has existed in Denmark for the past 10 years, viz "Nordisk Sambo" (Northern Collective Abode) near Kollund in Southern Jutland. Some 20 women belonging to the Lutheran order of sisters, "Daughters of Mary," live here. The order was founded in Sweden and also works in Slesvig and in Trier in West Germany but the "Nordisk Sambo" is the mother house. Besides the women actively engaged in the work of the convent a number of others are more losely connected with it. Recently the "Daughters of Mary"in Kollund have begun to wear a special blue dress also outside the convent. They have been consecrated for service at a ceremony in the parish church by the vicar who has no High Church leanings himself, and they have given a simple promise to serve God. Life in the convent is strictly regular, centring around fixed canonical hours of prayer and rules of poverty, obedience and chastity. Besides housework and gardening the sisters are occupied with weaving. On entering the convent they have donated all their possessions to the community. The sisters have an express desire to continue the connection with the Lutheran Church and attend service every Sunday in the parish church. They attach particular importance to the idea of the unity of the Church.

Information about the existence of this Lutheran convent and its activities was given by the newspaper "Information" which in a later article was able to tell that besides the retreat on the heath in Jutland North of Skjern which was mentioned in the last number of Church News there will be a convent by the name of "House of the Door-Keepers". It is to be the mother house of the order of the "Ecumenical Little Sisters" who are dressed in brown, but otherwise work in close connection with the "Daughters of Mary". The "Ecumenical Little Sisters" has existed for many years as a tertiary order, i.e. the 20 sisters or so have not lived together and each has had an ordinary profession. Only a few of the sisters are to live in the new convent. The former medical missionary, Miss Anna Bramsen who pays for the erection of the convent, is the leader of the "Ecumenical Little Sisters" who are consecrated by the confessor of the order, Rev. Svend Borregaard, Copenhagen.

Report on Nuclear Weapons Published in Danish.

The much disputed report on "Christians and the Prevention of War in an Atomic Age" which was published at the meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches at Nyborg Strand last summer, has now been translated into Danish and published by the "Aros" publishing firm. Professor N. H. Søe, himself a member of the Commission which drew up the report, has written the preface.

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FINLAND

Debate on Election of New Bishop in Finland.

As mentioned in the last number of Church News the Finnish Lutheran National Church will have a new diocese as from July 1st, viz. the Diocese of Helsinki (Helsingfors). Since the parishes belonging to the new Diocese are now part of the Diocese of Tampere (Tammerfors) it is felt by some that Bishop E. Gulin, Tampere (Tammerfors) should be entitled to choose himself whether to remain in Tampere (Tammerfors) or become bishop of the new diocese, but a number of legal experts have now come to the conclusion that the most correct procedure will be to conduct an episcopal election in the new diocese.

The Cabinet has not yet decided which church is to be the cathedral of the capital. Three churches in particular have been mentioned: the "Storkyrkan" plays an important part in the recent history of the nation and is situated in the centre of the city, the "Johanneskyrkan" is bigger and perhaps more suited for the purpose, and the "Berghällskyrkan" is recommended especially on account of its beatiful site.

Suggestions for Amendments to the Public Worship Regulation Act.

In Parliament the Finnish President has suggested certain amendments to the present Act governing the Lutheran National Church. If the amendments which were passed by the Church Assembly last year are also passed by Parliament, it will mean that it will be a voluntary matter in future to notify of participation in Holy Communion, and that the Cathedral Chapters will be entitled, with the approval of the Bishops' Conference, to let a minister from another Christian denomination officiate as clergyman in the Lutheran National Church.

Press Debate on Christianity and Science.

In a number of articles in the newspaper "Hufvudstadsbladet" Dr. Arne Runeberg, Ph.D., has opened a debate on the relations between Christianity and Science. He maintains that church quarters show "a marked reluctance to accept scientific results which are contradictory to a literal interpretation of the Bible" and to acknowledge the biological theory of evolution.

In a contribution to the discussion another scientist, Dr. Sven Segerstraale, Ph.D., writes among other things:

"If the conception of the universe is a mechanistic-materialistic one; if, for instance, biology looks upon living beings and their vital processes as the outcome of blind physical and chemical events, then a serious controversy between religion and science will result. Such a conception means that, among other things, man is a machine without a free will and thereby deprived of the possibility of striving for a goal, that he is not responsible for his actions, that the highest expressions of his psyche is only a result of automatically proceeding chemical and physical processes.

Such a conception has, as a matter of fact, dominated science for a long time", Dr. Segerstraale continues, " and there is hardly any doubt that this has been one of the main reasons for the increased estrangement between people of the Western countries and religion. Such mechanistic-materialistic views still seem widespread among the general public. For this reason it is so much the more imperative that laymen realize that modern science no longer adheres to a strictly

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mechanistic-materialistic conception; that, on the contrary, the tendency is to approach a more 'spiritualistic' point of view."

Telephone-aid-service now also in Helsinki (Helsingfors).

14 Finnish-speaking and 7 Swedish-speaking clergymen and women divinity graduates have agreed to take turns, two at a time, at being on duty at the Telephone-aid-service which has been established in Helsinki (Helsingfors) on the lines of similar services in a number of big towns in other countries. The Telephone-aid-service which has been adverti ed in the papers, is especially intended for people in spiritual distress.

News in Brief.

- The extremely valuable library of the Valamo monastery which has been kept in Heinävesi since the War, will shortly be taken over by the University Library in Helsinki (Helsingfors).

- The church in Kyrkslätt situated in the Porkkala district returned by the Russians will be re-consecrated at a ceremony on August 9th. The church has gone through a thorough restoration to which donations have been received also from the other Northern countries.

- Bishop Elis Gulin, Tampere (Tammerfors), paid a visit last month to an automobile factory in the course of a visitation to a parish in Helsinki (Helsingfors). He went through the factory and addressed the employees of the factory, emphasising the importance of a close connection between the workers and the church.

- The cantonment chapel at Riihimäki which was erected at the beginning of this century by the Russians as an Orthodox garrison church will now be restored at the expense of the parish and a benevolent society, founded by the permanent personnel of the garrison, and will be used for ordinary as well as military services. Two other former Russian garrison chapels have had to be demolished as they were too small and too damaged.

- The new liturgy for morning services which was approved by the Finnish Church Assembly last year was tried out last month in the Cathedral of Kuopio. It is richer than the one used until now and has also been renewed linguistically.

- The Hungarian Lutheran clergyman, Dean Istvan Benkö, has visited Finnland on the invitation from private friends. He had the opportunity of meeting both the Archbishop and the President of Finland.

- The possible change to non-alcoholic communion wine has been discussed in Finland recently, but efforts in this direction seem to be unsuccessful.

ICELAND

The Cathedral of Skálholt to be Completed this Summer?

It is expected that the new cathedral being erected at Skálholt, the historical see which was established shortly after year 1000, will be ready for dodication late in the summer.

The Church in the Faroe Isles has decided to present the new Icelandic Cathedral with a baptismal font, cut by a Faroe stone-cutter after a design by the artist Professor Ernst Trier, Copenhagen.

It has not yet been finally decided whether the bishop in future is to recide at Skálholt, the old church headquarters, or, for practical reasons, remain in the capital Reykjavik.

NORWAY

Proposal for Establishment of Permanent Church Commissions.

In the weekly "Vår Kirke" Assistant Editor Per Voksø has suggested that the Joint Convocation of the Diocesan Councils which is to meet in the autumn should set up a number of permanent commissions which might discuss and decide on various topical matters on which it would be of value to get a well-founded and carefully considered Christian opinion.

It is suggested to set up commissions on educational matters, family problems, questions of society, art, culture and international problems.

The commissions should be made up of theologians, physicians and lawyers, psychologists and quite "ordinary" laymen. They should either have a common secretariate or be attached to various already existing institutions. On the one hand they should give their views on general topics, on the other deal with special matters which might crop up and call for an all-round Christian answer.

Mr. Voksø admits that in the course of time many questions have been satisfactorily answered by individuals in books, papers and sermons but it all depends on whether there are really individuals with sufficient insight, knowledge, interest and energy to really think the problems through. As it is now, the answers do not possess the proper authority, and the whole undertaking gets a rather haphazard appearance.

"Vår Kirke" supports the proposal in a leading commentary.

5-Day Week Causes Problems and Opens Possibilities.

Within great sections of the labour front in Norway the 5-day week of work is being introduced. It will doubtless mean that people, to a greater extent than at present, will use the week-ends for excursions and this will, from a church point of view, result in several members of the Sunday services being absent and others only visiting for a short time. This will cause new problems for the Church and the Christian organizations, and the Christian daily paper in Oslo "Vårt Land" has called for a really thorough debate on the matter.

At the same time the paper points to the increased opportunities, resulting from the 5-day week for fixing sports events for Saturdays, leaving Sundays free. This question has already been discussed by leaders of the church and of athletics.

Finally, attention is drawn to the increased need for youth centres and camps where young people from the towns may meet during week-ends. Here, too, the Church and the Christian organizations are facing new responsibilities and new possibilities.

Every 10th Child in Oslo Not Christened.

From the report now available by Bishop Johs. Smemo on the Diocese of Oslo it appears that 10 per cent of the children in the region of the capital are not christened in the Norwegian Lutheran National Church although this includes 96 per cent of the population. However, the

Bishop points out that it is difficult to give an exact statement. By far the greater part of the young people are still being confirmed in the Church, and 69 per cent of the weddings take place in church - on the part of Oslo proper only 60 per cent, however. In this respect there is no marked change from last year. The number of communicants has also been practically the same.

The Bishop further states that the violent campaign in the press aiming at persuading people to resign from the National Church which was launched after the much criticized Church Assembly in the autumn of 1957, has resulted in only sporadic withdrawals.

Criticism of Films in Municipal Cinemas.

The weekly paper "Vår Kirke" sharply criticizes the municipalities for the way in which they run their cinemas. "When the municipal corporations took over most of the privately run cinemas it was expected that the danger of economic speculation in bad films had been removed", the paper writes, "but any idealism in the running of the municipal cinemas seems to be conspicuous by its absence. It is true that the profits are often used for good purposes but in all cases the watchword seems to be money in the box. And, unfortunately, the repertory seems to be in accordance with this principle. Films that will 'draw people' are put on the programme - the question of quality being of secondary importance."

The paper appeals to the municipalities to show good and genuinely artistic films and to spend some money on announcements and information about them. "Should this result in a decrease in the profits estimated, one may, on the other hand, expect an increase in the spiritual profits of the young people, and, we take it, this should be the main thing", "Vår Kirke" concludes.

Confessional Religious Instruction in Schools to Continue.

Religious instruction in the Norwegian schools is to continue "according to the Evangelical-Lutheran Confession". This may now be taken almost for granted after the introduction last month of the amendments to the Government Educational Bill by the Parliamentary Ecclesiastical and Educational Committee. In the Bill Government had omitted the present provision in the Educational Act about the confessional character of religious instruction, but this was met with a storm of protests and with only dissenting vote the Committee has now bowed to the protests. Likewise, the Committee has also guaranteed the bishop or his representative the right to supervise the religious instruction, a right which was severely restricted by the Government in the Bill. In the proposal for amendments the objects clause of the School which was unanimously adopted by the Committee, says, as in the Government Bill, that "the School is to help to give the pupils a Christian and ethical education".

The minority of the Committee (the non-Socialist Parties) have proposed that the Act should contain a provision to the effect that each day in school should begin and end with the singing of a hymn and/or a prayer, but the Labour majority feels that this question should be taken up for discussion in connection with a new general plan of instruction and not be included in the Act. The present provision that the rector is entitled to vote in the local school management is no longer included. The minority want the clergyman to be an ex-officio member of the school board while the majority feels that it must suffice if he is entitled to be present, to state his views and to have them put on record.

On the whole, church quarters are satisfied with the proposal of the Committee as may be seen from statements to the press by various churchmen, although the influence of the Church in school matters will be somewhat weakened compared with the present Educational Act. The Christian daily paper in Bergen "Dagen", concludes its comments with the words:

"The Amendment gave more than expected by many, but less than we had desired. It is another step in the direction of loosening the ties between School and Church."

Dissenters as Religious Instructors in Schools.

In a leading article the Christian daily in Oslo "Vårt Land" suggests that teachers who are members of free church communities (dissenters) should be allowed to teach religion in public schools as long as they bind themselves to conduct the instruction according to the official textbooks of the school and in conformity with the Evangelical-Lutheran confession. The paper motivates its standpoint by saying that the free church instructor will have a much more congenial attitude towards the contents and tendency of the subject that many a teacher who belongs officially to the Lutheran National Church, but is personally neutral or perhaps even antagonistic towards Christianity.

The President of the Joint Council of Evangelical Communities, Dr. E. Anker-Nielsen, is pleased with the leader in "Vårt Land" in as much as the Free Churches for several years have been desirous of such an arrangement. Several members of the Lutheran National Church, however, have expressed their disagreement with the proposal and point out that one cannot in decency put people under the obligation to teach something which goes against their conscience, and since the religious instruction in the School constitutes the baptismal instruction of the Lutheran National Church they do not want this instruction to be made secular.

At the Bishops' Conference in 1950 the Norwegian Bishops were expressly against giving dissenters access to become teachers in religion and the new Educational Bill just introduced in Parliament does not contain any change in the present provision that an instructor in Christian knowledge must belong to the Lutheran National Church or another Lutheran church community. On the other hand, a lively debate on the matter may possibly be expected when the Bill about dissenters, now being prepared, is introduced in Parliament.

New Drive for Increased Church Attendance.

In many Norwegian congregations a new drive for increased church attendance will take place in the course of this month. In Oslo a couple of thousands of posters appealing to people to go to church have been put up in busses and tramways, on advertising pillars and in shops. In many places the visiting services and similar organizations have issued personal invitations to come to church.

The drive is sponsored by a committee, set up by the Diocesan Councils, which supplies printed matter and helps the individual congregations with ideas. The committee has been in action for a couple of years and it is planned to conduct campaigns every spring and autumn.

The Strength of the Christian Radio Transmitter in Europe to be 500 000 Watts.

During a visit to Norway the President of the "Voice of the Andes" Dr. Clarence Jones tells the newspaper "Vårt Land" that the planned Christian broadcasting station in Europe is to be of 500 000 watts and will cost 850 000 dollars in the first round, but altogether 2 1/2 mill. dollars over a 5-year period. Transmitters have been ordered for the station and it is expected that the broadcasts may begin one year after the questions of where to build the broadcasting station and on which frequencies to send the programmes have been settled.

Dr. Jones' assistant Mr. Harold Van Brockhoven is now in Europe in order to negotiate about the solution of these questions.

News in Brief.

- As in Oslo an Easter Week festival will take place in Bergen this year. On each day of the week there will be special arrangements, such as concerts, church plays and church services.

- From April 7th-12th a congregational drive will take place in all the parishes of Stavanger on the initiative of the parochial councils. the voluntary Christian organizations and the Lutheran Free Church in cooperation. 350 special visitors will go out with the invitiations, among other things.

- At the beginning of this year there were 1 605 divinity graduates in Norway, it appears from a recently published statistics. 1 203 of them were trained at the Free Theological Faculty. 212 were employed by Christian organizations and institutions, 188 in schools.

- Rev. Odd Godal, Oslo, has suddenly died, 54 years old. Mr. Godal was the leader of the Norwegian Church Academy which was established a few years ago. Bishop Johs. Smidt, Agder, has taken over the management of the Academy.

- The new Norwegian budget which was presented in Parliament at the beginning of this month contains a provision that churches and social building projects in future should be exempted from purchase tax on the part of the costs covered by donations.

SWEDEN

Proposal for One Common Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In the paper "Karlstads Stiftsblad" the Dean Valter Lindström, Karlstad, has proposed that all the weeks and days of prayer for the Christian unity should be substituted by one common week of prayer.

The Dean mentions the efforts of the Evangelical Alliance, the World Council of Churches, the YMCA and YWCA and Christian women as proof that the thought of the Christian unity is a living factor. and continues:

"It is true that we cannot pray too often for Christian unity. That prayer must be ever living in our hearts. But such a state of affairs may hardly be obtained by one ecumenical organization after the other arranging its own week of prayer for the Christian unity. The many drives are proof, not only of zealousness for the cause of unity, but also of failing co-ordination of unifying efforts. The

critical on-looker may easily get the impression that each wants to create the unity in his own private way - instead of humbly praying to God for that unity which He alone can bestow upon His shattered Christendom."

The Dean feels that it would be of great positive value to the efforts for unity if the various organizations could agree to recommend one common week of prayer for all for the Christian unity.

The Church Needs a Differentiation of Office.

In his pastoral letter published last month on the occasion of his accession to office the new Bishop of Härnösand Dr. Ruben Josefson, advocates a differentiation of the church ministry as he feels that the Church might thus come into better contact with modern man. He maintains that the High Church conception of the ministry which binds the Gospel to the office as a fixed institution is hardly consistent with that of the Reformation which takes its stand on the Gospel and evaluates the ministry according to its importance as a tool in the service of the Gospel.

Taken on the whole, Bishop Josefson feels that less importance should be attached to traditions, more to the preaching of the pure Gospel in order to be able to preach Christ to modern man who is not influenced by church tradition. Much theological and church discussion must be said to belong to the past.

The Bishop accepts women pastors as a natural consequence of the Lutheran conception of the Scriptures and interpretations of Christianity, but he emphasizes that women pastors do not solve the problems of the church nor constitute a position retrieved in the life of the nation.

Shortage of Clergymen Resulting in many "Exempted Clergymen" in Sweden.

For several years the shortage of clergymen in the Swedish Lutheran National Church has been keenly felt and the result has been that during the past 10 years no less than 105 "exempted clergymen" have been employed in its service. By this is meant people who have no university theological degrees but are considered suited for the work of a clergyman and have been given access to it, usually after a short theological training. Among the "exempted clergymen" are 32 former free church ministers and 12 who have formerly served in the Evangelical National Missionary Society, an independent organization within the Lutheran National Church.

These figures were published recently in an article in the "Svenska Dagbladet" which had sent a questionnaire to all the dioceses. The Diocese of Luleå which is in the North of Sweden has had greatest difficulty in finding sufficient clergymen and consequently, the number of "exempted clergymen" employed during latter years is the largest here, viz. 24. The Diocese of Gothenburg had not availed itself at all to the possibility of exemption in spite of a not small shortage of clergymen.

The need of clergymen is still very great. Thus, some 30 clergymen are lacking in the Diocese of Härnösand, 20 in the Diocese of Luleå, 20 in the Diocese of Uppsala and 15 in the Diocese of Gothenburg. The number of divinity students, on the other hand, is rather big in comparison with the number at the beginning of the '50ies. At that time only some 50 students were entered annually at the two faculties, while the number now is 75 - 100 in the case of Uppsala and 65 - 80 at Lund.

This probably means that the normal retirement of clergymen may be covered year by year, but it will be difficult to meet the already existing shortage of clergymen.

An important reason for the shortage is that so many clergymen avail themselves of the possibility of retiring on a pension already at the age of 65.

Foundation of Society: Christianity and Humanism.

During the recent debate in the Swedish Parliament Mr Sven Gustafsson belonging to the Liberal Party stated that there is a growing interest for religious, idealistic and ethical questions within political life. "It has been evident in various ways in Parliament during the last few years and also in the country there is a similar tendency", he said.

The speaker felt that one of the reasons for this is that attention is beginning to be focused on the very foundation of society. The increasing criminality, the difficulty of finding positive ideals for one's life characteristic of the young people, and similar problems have resulted in people realizing that it is not enough to put up a beautiful and up-to-date structure of society if the foundation proves not to be firm.

"The foundation of our society as well as of the whole culture of Western Europe is Christianity and humanism", Mr. Gustafsson continued, "and I do not believe that there is any leader in any of the democratic parties who, irrespective of personal views in religious matters, wants to raze this foundation."

South African Legation Attacks Former Missionary.

The former Swedish missionary in South Africa Rev. Gunnar Helander has been sharply attacked by the South African Legation in Stockholm in an article published in various Swedish newspapers. He is accused of having been a Nazi during the War and of receiving money now from the Communists for his criticisms of the regime in South Africa. It is further maintained that he was unpopular as a missionary and that it was the Swedish Church which did not permit him to continue his missionary activities.

In a reply Rev. Gunnar Helander states that he refrained from returning to South Africa as he got the impression from the Legation in Stockholm that he was not wanted there, and as he was afraid of causing added difficulties for the mission by his return.

The reason for the Legation's attack is Rev. Gunnar Helander's sharp public criticisms of the attitude of the South African Government in the question of races.

70 Free Church Ministers Active in Contacting Service.

During latter years an increasing number of ministers from the various free church communities in Sweden have taken on special tasks aiming at establishing contact with different sections of society. Some 30 ministers do duty as contacts in prisons, where the spiritual care since 1952 has been executed by the various denominations in cooperation. Some 40 ministers have been nominated as "senior school ministers" in most cases in cooperation with or in connection with a free church senior school association.

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The Free Church Board of Co-ordination which together with the free church senior school movement organizes the contact service, aims at extending this so that it may include all schools of higher education in the country.

News in Brief.

- A motion introduced in the Swedish Parliament suggests that the obligation to marry people should be abolished for clergymen in the Swedish Lutheran National Church. Until now they have been obliged to marry all who wanted it - also divorced persons - the reason given being that marriage in church is of civic validity. Similar proposals have been moved several times before - to no avail.

- The Conservative Party has brought in a motion in Parliament to the effect that representatives of the Lutheran National Church and other Christian denominations are given a seat on all committees dealing with matters where ethical and moral evaluations are of special importance.

- 1959 has been nominated a special "missionary year" in the Diocese of Stockholm. An ambulatory mission exhibition is to visit all the congregations and lectures on foreign mission work will be given in the schools. The missionary council of the Diocese and Bishop Helge Ljungberg are in charge of the campaign. Similar drives may be expected later on in other dioceses.

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